

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A copper base alloy suitable for use as a material for a sliding member ~~consisting of~~ comprising, by mass %, 15 to 25% Zn, 4.2 to 10% Bi, 2 to 7% Mn, 1 to 3% Si and balance of Cu and unavoidable impurities, the alloy having a structure of which matrix is composed of  $\alpha$ -single phase, wherein a eutectic structure of the  $\alpha$ -phase and an Mn-Si compound and Bi particle are distributed throughout the matrix.

2. (Original) A copper base alloy according to claim 1, which has a Vickers hardness ranging from 90 to 180.

3. (Original) A copper base alloy according to claim 1, which is heat-treated to be hardened so as to have Vickers hardness ranging from 120 to 180.

4. (Original) A copper base alloy according to claim 1, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.

5. (Original) A copper base alloy according to claim 3, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.

6. (Original) A copper base alloy according to claim 3, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.

7. (New) A copper base alloy suitable for use as a material for a sliding member consisting of, by mass %,

15 to 25% Zn,

4.2 to 10% Bi,

2 to 7% Mn,

1 to 3% Si,

optionally 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B, and

balance of Cu and unavoidable impurities,

said alloy having a matrix structure of an  $\alpha$ -single phase,

wherein a eutectic structure of the  $\alpha$ -phase and an Mn-Si compound and Bi particle are distributed throughout the matrix.